

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6056

BILL NUMBER: SB 30

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 29, 2005

BILL AMENDED: Apr 28, 2005

SUBJECT: Committees, Commissions, & Authorities.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Alting

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. T. Brown

BILL STATUS: Enrolled

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill: (1) continues the Rail Corridor Safety Committee until November 1, 2010, and requires an additional report; (2) adds the following members to the Lake County Regional Transportation Authority (LCRTA): (A) the mayor of Valparaiso or the mayor's designee; (B) the mayor of Portage or the mayor's designee; and (C) a member of the Porter County board of commissioners or the member's designee; and (3) provides that the members appointed from Porter County may not vote on the distribution or payment of money by the authority unless Porter County pays a share of the authority's budget.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Part (1)-* This bill extends the eight-member Rail Corridor Safety Committee for five additional years, with expiration on November 1, 2010. The Committee is to issue two reports to the Legislative Council regarding matters listed below before each of the following dates: (1) November 1, 2005, and (2) November 1, 2010. Staff and administrative support is to be provided by the Legislative Services Agency.

During the 2004 interim, study committees with fewer than 16 members were allocated \$8,000 from funds appropriated to the Legislative Council from the state General Fund.

Background Information on the Rail Corridor Safety Committee: The Committee shall do the following:

- (1) study the safety of rail corridors, including corridors at overpasses, underpasses, and crossings;
- (2) review railroad safety records;
- (3) study the methods of encouraging cooperation among the railroads, local government, state government,

and the federal government to enhance the safety of railroads; and
(4) study other topics as assigned by the Legislative Council.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Part (2)* - To the extent that current members of the Lake County Regional Transportation Authority (LCRTA) receive compensation for their services, this proposal will increase expenditures to the LCRTA.

Part (3) Requiring Porter County to pay a share of the LCRTA budget before the county may vote on the distribution or payment of money by the LCRTA will have an indeterminable fiscal impact.

Background Information: For CY 2002, the LCRTA reported no financial transactions, according to the State Board of Accounts. For CY 2003, the LCRTA received \$50,000, consisting of \$25,000 from Lake County and \$25,000 from the cities of Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago. As of March 2004, the LCRTA reported expenditures of \$33,800 and a cash balance of \$16,200. However, expenditure data was not sufficiently detailed to reflect any expenditures for current members of the LCRTA. The State Board of Accounts reports a budget \$148,000 for the LCRTA for CY 2004.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Legislative Services Agency.

Local Agencies Affected: Valparaiso; Portage; Porter County Board of Commissioners; Lake County Regional Transportation Authority.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: James Sperlik, 317-232-9866.